

GAHP Annual Meeting Summary

The GAHP Annual Meeting was held via teleconference and GoToMeeting on 6th October 2016 from 08:00– 10:00 New York time. 35 persons from 20 different agencies were present. The meeting primarily discussed progress against GAHP's strategy for 2015-202, preliminary results of the Global Commission on Pollution, Health and Development, and publicity efforts, and how to continue to grow international attention and interest in the pollution agenda. The below is a summary of the discussion and decisions taken.

Administrative Business

- The minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting were approved pending some small edits.
- 6 new GAHP members were welcomed (since the last annual meeting): Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Pollution Control Department of Thailand, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Green Cross Switzerland, UNITAR and the International Center for Chemical Safety and Security
- Changes to the Executive Committee were announced: ADB has assigned Soonman Kwon as their representative, and the seat for the representative to the Philippines is currently vacant.
- The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) was approved as a GAHP member.
- It was suggested that the Secretariat reach out to ICSHNet, an organization with a focus on contaminated sites in the EU, particularly research and methodology, but not remediation.

Programmatic Business

- **Secretariat Update & Discussion**
 - The Secretariat briefly reviewed the 2015-2020 GAHP strategic plan, and progress against its targets and goals. By and large, GAHP is well on track to achieve its goals, and in some cases is already exceeding its targets.
 - Some clarification points were discussed.
- **Global Commission on Pollution and Health**
 - The Secretariat provided an update regarding the Commission Report. A final draft will be circulated to all GAHP members for review within the next two weeks, once the 2015 data is incorporated.
 - In parallel, the Report will be submitted to *The Lancet* for peer review.
 - This process is anticipated to take up to three months, after which *The Lancet* will need 6 weeks for production and formatting. The working date for publication is March 20, 2017.

- *The Lancet* will host two launch events; one in New York at the Academy of Medicine hosted by Dr. Phil Landrigan and the other in London hosted by Richard Horton at *The Lancet* office.
- GAHP members and observers will be invited to participate in these events, as well as in the publicity and communications. Ms. Bernhardt is the main contact at Pure Earth regarding publicity and communications. Any questions should be directed to her at angela@Pureearth.org.
- *The findings*. The Secretariat then presented a brief overview of the Commission's findings, and discussion regarding some of the findings and recommendations, ensued.
- **Pre- and post-Commission communications/promotion**
 - The Secretariat presented its plans for pre and post-Commission release. It requested assistance from GAHP members and observers, in particular to share their press connections in other countries and in Europe with the Secretariat, and to participate in release events and activities
 - Several pre-release briefings are being scheduled, including in San Francisco, New York, London and perhaps Brussels. Several NGO partners will help support the release and key messaging.
 - The Secretariat will release a series of infographics illustrating the links between the SDGs and pollution. A few examples were presented and comments shared. Once finalized, the Secretariat will ask GAHP members and observers to share these social media infographics during a scheduled campaign.
 - The Secretariat introduced the idea of a global pollution and health map, which would combine public data sets on all types of pollution along with a crowd-sourced pollution reporting mechanism. It would be available on a website that would also feature interactive maps for the IHME and WHO data, the TSIP database, as well as other data, as well as stories of affected communities. The idea was generally well-received.
- **Health and Pollution Planning Processes**
 - The Secretariat introduced the health and pollution planning processes, which seek to assist LMICs to prioritize pollution interventions, based on health impacts and outcomes, and develop a roadmap for those interventions.
 - The Secretariat noted that 5 countries have requested GAHP assistance to embark on this process (Thailand, Madagascar, Senegal, Jordan and Cote D'Ivoire).
 - The Secretariat emphasized that GAHP's role is to coordinate the process and help ensure the right actors are at the table. It was explained that the process is meant to be multi-stakeholder, involving a variety of

government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies and multilateral development banks.

- **Metrics**

- The Secretariat noted there is a great need to measure progress against pollution.
- The Secretariat suggested to create a small working group to examine how GAHP can provide some basic global pollution metrics. They explained that GAHP needs to be able to show how well the world is progressing in its efforts to reduce the overall global burden of disease from pollution.
- The Secretariat added that performance metrics country by country are also necessary to show how much investment has been made, what types of pollution they are tackling, how many projects and what are their results.
- Possible opportunities for coordination with the World Bank and UNEP were discussed.

- **Presentation on “Making the Case” to donors and decision-makers and Discussion**

- The Secretariat presented a draft of the “9 Reasons to Act” presentation. The presentation is meant to convince donor and key decision makers in a variety of arenas to take action on pollution.
- The presentation was well received and resonated with many GAHP members. Some excellent comments and suggestions for improvement to the presentation and its arguments were made.